

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

Jessica M. Brown,

Case No. 2:24-cv-00588-JAD-MDC

## Plaintiff

## **Order Dismissing and Closing Case**

CCDC.

## Defendant

Plaintiff Jessica M. Brown brings this civil-rights lawsuit to redress constitutional  
violations that she claims she suffered while detained at the Clark County Detention Center  
("CCDC"). On April 11, 2024, this court ordered Brown to either pay the \$405 filing fee or file  
a complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* by June 10, 2024.<sup>1</sup> That deadline expired,  
and Brown did not pay the fee, file an *in forma pauperis* application, or seek to extend the  
deadline to do so.

District courts have the inherent power to control their dockets and “[i]n the exercise of that power, they may impose sanctions including, where appropriate . . . dismissal” of a case.<sup>2</sup> A court may dismiss an action based on a party’s failure to obey a court order or comply with local rules.<sup>3</sup> In determining whether to dismiss an action on this ground, the court must consider: (1) the public’s interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court’s need to manage its

1 ECF No. 3.

<sup>2</sup> *Thompson v. Hous. Auth. of City of Los Angeles*, 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986).

<sup>3</sup> *Malone v. U.S. Postal Service*, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (dismissal for failure to comply with court order); *Henderson v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424 (9th Cir. 1986) (dismissal for lack of prosecution and failure to comply with local rules).

1 docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring disposition of  
 2 cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives.<sup>4</sup>

3       The first two factors, the public's interest in expeditiously resolving this litigation and the  
 4 court's interest in managing its docket, weigh in favor of dismissal of Brown's claims. The third  
 5 factor, risk of prejudice to defendants, also weighs in favor of dismissal because a presumption  
 6 of injury arises from the occurrence of unreasonable delay in prosecuting an action.<sup>5</sup> The fourth  
 7 factor—the public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits—is greatly outweighed by  
 8 the factors favoring dismissal.

9       The fifth factor requires the court to consider whether less drastic alternatives can be used  
 10 to correct the party's failure that brought about the court's need to consider dismissal.<sup>6</sup> Courts  
 11 "need not exhaust every sanction short of dismissal before finally dismissing a case, but must  
 12 explore possible and meaningful alternatives."<sup>7</sup> Because this court cannot operate without  
 13 collecting reasonable fees, and litigation cannot progress without a plaintiff's compliance with  
 14 the court's order, the only alternative is to enter a second order setting another deadline. But  
 15 issuing a second order will only delay the inevitable and further squander the court's finite  
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18<sup>4</sup> *In re Phenylpropanolamine Prod. Liab. Litig.*, 460 F.3d 1217, 1226 (9th Cir. 2006) (quoting  
 19 *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 130).

20<sup>5</sup> *See Anderson v. Air West*, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976).

21<sup>6</sup> *Yourish v. Cal. Amplifier*, 191 F.3d 983, 992 (9th Cir. 1999) (explaining that considering less  
 22 drastic alternatives *before* the party has disobeyed a court order does not satisfy this factor);  
 23 *accord Pagtalunan v. Galaza*, 291 F.3d 639, 643 & n.4 (9th Cir. 2002) (explaining that "the  
 persuasive force of" earlier Ninth Circuit cases that "implicitly accepted pursuit of less drastic  
 alternatives prior to disobedience of the court's order as satisfying this element[,] i.e., like the  
 "initial granting of leave to amend coupled with the warning of dismissal for failure to  
 comply[,]" have been "eroded" by *Yourish*).

<sup>7</sup> *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1424.

1 resources. Setting another deadline is not a meaningful alternative given these circumstances.  
2 So the fifth factor favors dismissal.

3 Having thoroughly weighed these dismissal factors, I find that they weigh in favor of  
4 dismissal. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that **THIS ACTION IS DISMISSED** without  
5 prejudice based on Brown's failure to pay the filing fee or seek to proceed *in forma pauperis* in  
6 compliance with the court's order. The Clerk of Court is directed to **ENTER JUDGMENT**  
7 accordingly and **CLOSE THIS CASE**. If Brown wishes to pursue her claims, she must file a  
8 complaint in a new case, and she must pay the fee for that action or file a complete application to  
9 proceed *in forma pauperis*.

10 Dated: June 12, 2024

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12 U.S. District Judge Jennifer A. Dorsey

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